

HOMESTEAD AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Unit One

Homestead and the National Park Service

UNIT ONE

The following is background information for creating lesson plans. Activities start on page 4.

The National Park Service

A History

The idea of preserving special natural and cultural places in public ownership ran contrary to the prevailing national mood during the 19th century; most Americans saw nature as something to be conquered and history as what had happened hundreds of years before. As the wilderness receded and remnants of prehistoric civilization and Revolutionary War landmarks were lost, some saw the need to protect outstanding examples of the nation's heritage. Writing on a trip to the Dakotas in 1832, George Catlin expressed concern about westward expansion's effects on Indian civilization, *wildlife*, and *wilderness*. He dreamed that these places might be "by some great protecting policy of the government preserved . . . in a magnificent park . . . A nation's park, containing man and beast, in all wildness and freshness of their nature's beauty!" So Catlin, noted painter of American Indians, is credited with first expressing the national park idea.



The first move by the Government to protect a grand natural landscape came in 1864 when it granted Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California to be "held for public use, resort, and recreation . . . inalienable for all time." Following exploration of the Yellowstone region in the Montana and Wyoming territories,

Congress reserved these spectacular areas in 1872, as "a public park or pleasure-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Since the areas were territories instead of states, the park remained under the Department of the Interior as Yellowstone National Park - the world's first area so titled. In the 1890's four more national parks were created: Sequoia, General Grant (later Kings Canyon), Yosemite, and Mount Rainier. Army engineers and cavalry units developed and protected these sites through arrangements made between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of War.

GLOSSARY

Commemorate - to serve as a reminder of something

Diversity - a variety of different groups, items or people

Generations - all the people born within the same period of time; our grandparents

Homesteading - a movement where a family or an individual acquires land from the U.S. government by filing a record, and living on and cultivating the land.

Mission - a vision or task shared by a group of people

Wildlife - animals and plants in their natural state

Wilderness - a place unchanged by humans and left in its natural state

Under the Antiquities Act of 1906, the President could proclaim historic and scientific interest areas on the public lands as national monuments. Devils Tower National Monument became the first proclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

By 1916, the Interior Department managed 14 national parks and 21 national monuments. Congress created a new bureau within the Department of Interior to manage these areas with a twofold purpose: "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The National Park Service was established to preserve and protect for present and future generations these special sites. The young bureau mainly supervised sites west of the Mississippi River, while battlefields and monuments in the East were under the management of the War Department. Other monuments were managed by the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. In 1933, the government reorganized, and all of these areas were united under the National Park Service.

The National Park Service Today

Over the years many different sites have been added to the National Park System besides national parks and monuments. Today, the system includes national memorials, battlefields and cemeteries, preserves, rivers and riverways, historical parks and sites, lakeshores, parkways, military parks, recreation areas, seashores, scenic riverways and trails, wild and scenic rivers, and historic trails. In all, the National Park System contains over 390 units.



Homestead National Monument of America

Established in 1936 by an act of Congress, Homestead National Monument of America was set aside to *commemorate* the

Homestead Act of 1862. The Homestead Act of 1862 had an immediate effect upon America and the world that is still felt today. Under this law more than 270 million acres, 10 percent of the nation, were given to people in search of a dream. This great transformation had a profound and lasting impact on the land, American Indians, Immigration and migration, industry and agriculture. Homestead National Monument of America is a memorial to the lives and accomplishments of all pioneers and the changes to people, land, and the world brought by the Act. Homestead National Monument of America is on the site of the Daniel Freeman *homestead*, one of the first filers under the

Homestead Act of 1862. Located 4 miles west of Beatrice, Nebraska on Nebraska Highway 4, the monument contains Freeman's 160-acre claim plus an additional 40 acres.

Heritage and Education Center

Park Rangers are available at the Heritage Center and Education Center to answer questions. Located within the Heritage Center is the museum, the auditorium, and a bookstore. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays, 9:00 to 5:00 weekends. The park is closed three days of the year on Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1.

Buildings

The Palmer-Epard Cabin is located in the courtyard outside of the Education Center. The Freeman School House is located one-quarter mile west of the Education Center and is open upon request.

Trails on the Tallgrass prairie

The restored tallgrass prairie has walking trails varying in length from 1 to 2 ½ miles. The trails are open from sunrise to sunset.

Unit 1, Activity 1

The National Park Service

Theme:
The National Park Service protects and preserves special areas for the public to enjoy now and in the future.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to explain what the National Park Service does with the lands it manages.
2. Students will be able to tell who owns National Park Service sites.
3. Students will be able to identify National Park Service sites in the United States.

Materials Needed: Maps: United States and the National Park System, Material Sheets: List of National Park Service sites, National Park Service Arrowhead, and Park Names

Subject: geography, history

Skills: mapping, locating, and transposition

Methods: This activity will introduce students to the National Park System and explain to them why these areas were set aside. Students will see there are many different sites and will be able to locate several of them. Students will learn that these areas are owned by the people of the United States.

1. Introduce students to the National Park Service (NPS) with the NPS Arrowhead and explain that this is the symbol of the NPS. Ask them, "What is a park?" Then, "What is a National Park?", and if anyone has visited one. (If someone has, ask what is one thing they remember about the area.)
2. Explain that a National Park Service site is a special area set aside by the government for all people to enjoy. Explain the *mission* of the park service is to preserve and protect special sites for present and future generations.

Use the Material Sheet: **List of National Park Service Sites** showing all the parks. You can prepare an overhead transparency or pass out the list to group leaders. Name the different types of National Park Service sites.

3. Break students down into groups of 4-5 people. Give each group 10 parks with just the name (use Material Sheet: Park Names, cut out). Students are to find out which type of site the 10 parks are by using the List of National Park Service Sites sheet.
4. After students have determined the type of park, have students locate the park on the National Park Service map and place it in the approximate position on the United States map. This will help them gain an awareness of the *diversity of our heritage*.
5. Ask students who they think owns these sites. Then point to several students and say "you and you . . ." Let students know that these sites belong to them. It is part of our heritage as United States citizens.

An Exploring Experience: If your class has access to the Internet, have students contact a National Park Service site and ask about the history of the park and some information about that site. This can be done through the World Wide Web Home Pages at <http://www.nps.gov>. Another activity is having students write to different parks, requesting information. Then have students present the information to the class or make a bulletin board display of the different areas.

Material Sheet

National Park Service Arrowhead



Material Sheet
List of National Park Sites [as of 2005]

National Parks		
Acadia	Saguaro	Herbert Hoover
Arches	Theodore Roosevelt	Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt
Badlands	Virgin Islands	Hopewell Furnace
Big Bend	Voyageurs	Hubbell Trading Post
Biscayne	Wind Cave	James A. Garfield Jamestown
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	Wrangell-St. Elias (& Preserve)	Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
Bryce Canyon	Yellowstone	Jimmy Carter
Canyonlands	Yosemite	John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Capitol Reef	Zion	John Muir
Carlsbad Caverns		Knife River Indian Village
Channel Island	National Historic Site	Lincoln Home
Congaree Swamp	Abraham Lincoln Birthplace	Longfellow
Crater Lake	Adams	Maggie L. Walker
Cuyahoga Valley	Allegheny Portage Railroad	Martin Luther King Jr.
Death Valley	Andersonville	Martin Van Buren
Denali (& Preserve)	Andrew Johnson	McLoughlin House
Everglades	Bent's Old Fort	Ninety Six
Gates of the Arctic (& Preserve)	Boston African-American	Palo Alto Battlefield
Glacier Bay	Brown V. Board of Education	Pennsylvania Avenue
Glacier	Carl Sandburg Home	Puukohola Heiau
Grand Canyon	Chaco Canyon	Sagamore Hill
Grant Teton	Charles Pickney	Saint Croix Island (International)
Great Basin	Chicago Portage	Saint Paul's Church
Great Smoky Mountains	Christiansted	Saint-Gaudens
Guadalupe Mountains	Clara Barton	Salem Maritime
Haleakala	Colonial	San Juan
Hawaii Volcanoes	Edgar Allan Poe	Saugus Iron Works
Hot Springs	Edison	Sewall-Belmont House
International Park	Eisenhower	Springfield Armory
Isle Royale	Eleanor Roosevelt	Steamtown
Joshua Tree	Eugene O'Neill	Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace
Katmai (& Preserve)	Ford's Theatre	Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural
Kings Canyon	Fort Bowie	Thomas Stone
Kobuk Valley	Fort Davis	Touro Synagogue
Lake Clark (& Preserve)	Fort Laramie	Tuskegee Institute
Lassen Volcanic	Fort Larned	Ulysses S. Grant
Mammoth Cave	Fort Point	Vanderbilt Mansion
Mesa Verde	Fort Raleigh	Weir Farm
Mount Rainier	Fort Scott	Whitman Mission
National Park of American Samoa	Fort Union Trading Post	William Howard Taft
North Cascades	Fort Vancouver	
Olympic	Frederick Law Olmsted	National Monuments
Petrified Forest Redwood	Friendship Hill	Agate Fossil Beds
Rocky Mountain	Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church	Alibates Flint Quarries
Roosevelt Campobello	Golden Spike	Aniakchak (& Preserve)
Sequoia	Grant-Kohrs ranch	Aztec Ruins
Shenandoah	Hampton	Bandelier
	Harry S Truman	

National Monuments (Continue)	Pipe Spring Pipestone Poverty Point Rainbow Bridge Russell Caves Salinas Pueblo Missions Scotts Bluff Statue of Liberty Sunset Crater Timpanogos Cave Tonto Tumacacori Tuzigoot Walnut Canyon Washington White Sands Wupatki Yucca House	Chickasaw Coulee Dam Curecanti Delaware Water Gap Gateway Gauley River Glen Canyon Golden Gate Lake Chelan Lake Mead Lake Meredith Ross Lake Santa Monica Mountains Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity
Booker T. Washington Buck Island Reef Cabrillo Canyon de Chelly Cape Krusenstern Capulin Volcano Casa Grande Castillo De San Marcos Castle Clinton Cedar Breaks Chiricahua Colorado Craters of the Moon Devils Postpile Devils Tower Dinosaur Effigy Mounds El Malpais El Morro Florissant Fossil Beds Fort Frederica Fort Jefferson Fort Matanzas Fort McHenry Fort Pulaski Fort Stanwix Fort Sumter Fort Union Fossil Butte George Washington Birthplace George Washington Carver Gila Cliffs Dwellings Grand Portage Great Sand Dunes Hagerman Fossil Beds Hohokam Pima Homestead (of America) Hovenweep Jewel Cave John Day Fossil Beds Lava Beds Little Bighorn Battlefield Montezuma Castle Muir Woods Natural Bridges Navajo Ocmulgee Oregon Caves Organ Pipe Cactus Petroglyph Pinnacles	National Preserves and Re-serves Bering Land Bridge Big Cypress Big Thicket City of Rocks Ebey's Landing Glacier Bay Ice Age (Scientific Reserve) Noatak Pinelands Timucuan Yukon-Charley Rivers	National Rivers, Riverways, Scenic Rivers, and Wild Rivers Alagnak Big South Fork Bluestone Buffalo Delaware Lower St. Croix Mississippi Missouri New River Gorge Niobrara Obed Ozark Rio Grande Saint Croix Upper Delaware
	National Historic and Scenic Trails Appalachian California Ice Age Lewis & Clark Masau Trail Mormon Pioneer Natchez Trace North Country Oregon Overmountain Victory Pony Express Potomac Heritage Santa Fe	National Historic Parks Appomattox Court House Boston Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Cumberland Gap Dayton Aviation Heritage George Rogers Clark Harpers Ferry Hopewell Culture Independence Jean Lafitte Kalaupapa Kaloko-Honokohau Keweenaw Klondike Gold Rush Lowell Lyndon B. Johnson Minute Man Morristown Natchez
	National Recreation Areas Amistad Bighorn Canyon Chattahoochee River	

**National Historic Parks
(Continued)**

Nez Perce
Peco
Pu'uhonua O Honaunau
Salt River Bay
San Antonio Missions
San Francisco Maritime
San Juan Island
Saratoga
Sitka
Valley Forge
War in the Pacific
Women's Rights
Zuni-Cibola

National Battlefields and Cemeteries

Antietam
Big Hole
Brices Cross Roads
Cowpens
Fort Donelson
Fort Necessity
Kennesaw Mountain
Manassas
Monocacy
Moores Creek
Petersburg
Richmond
Stones River
Tupelo
Wilson's Creek

National Lakeshores and Seashores

Apostle Islands
Assateague Island
Canaveral
Cape Cod
Cape Hatteras
Cape Lookout
Cumberland Island
Fire Island
Gulf Islands
Indiana Dunes
Padre Islands
Pictured Rocks
Point Reyes
Sleeping Bear Dunes

National Memorials

American Memorial Park

Arkansas Post
Benjamin Franklin
Chamizal
Coronado
David Berger
De Soto
Father Marquette
Federal Hall
Fort Caroline
Fort Clatsop
General Grant
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Hamilton Grange
Johnstown Flood
Jefferson
LBJ Memorial Grove-On-The-Potomac
Lincoln
Lincoln Boyhood
Mount Rushmore
Perry's Victory & International Peace
Roger Williams
Thaddeus Kosciuszko
U.S. Arizona
Warren G. Harding
Wright Brothers

National Military Parks

Chickamauga & Chattanooga
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania
Gettysburg
Guilford Courthouse
Horseshoe Bend
Kings Mountain
Pea Ridge
Shiloh (& Cemetery)
Vicksburg (& Cemetery)

National Cemeteries

Battleground
Poplar Grove
Yorktown

Other National Park Areas

Blue Ridge Parkway**
Catoctain Park**
Claude Moore Colonial Farm**
Constitution Gardens**
Ellis Island
Fort Washington Park**
Frederick Douglass Home**
Great Falls Park**
Illinois & Michigan Canal
International Peace Garden
John D. Rockefeller Parkway
Natchez Trace Parkway
National Mall**
Piscataway Park**
Prince William Forest Park**
Rock Creek Park**
White House**
Wolf Trap Farm Park**

**located in the D.C. area

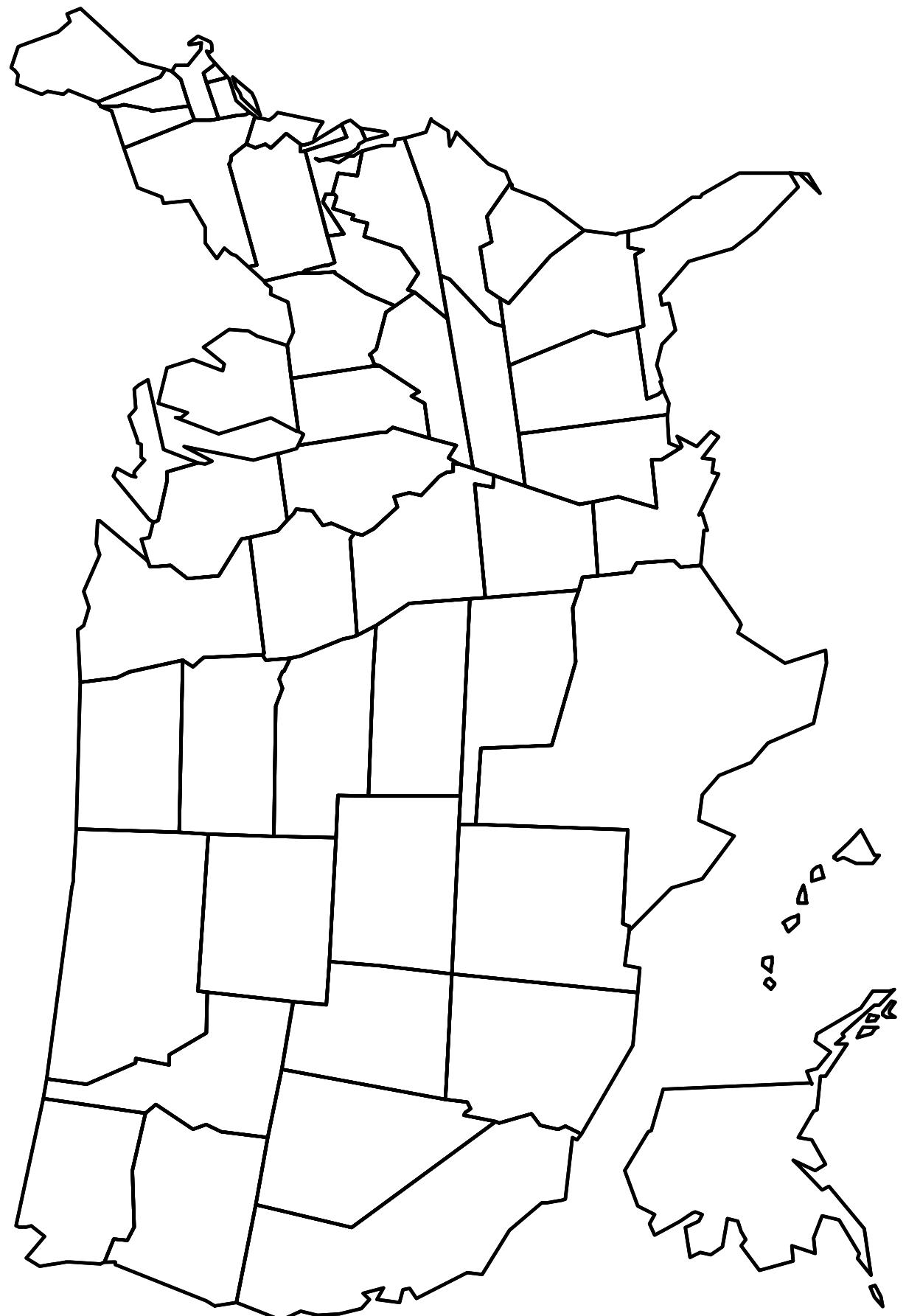
Ulysses S. Grant	Castillo De San Marcos	Women's Rights
Knife River Indian Village	Curecanti	Appomatox Court House
Minute Man	Antietam	Cape Cod
Battleground	Federal Hall	Saratoga
Glen Canyon	Gates of the Arctic	Lower St. Croix
Morristown	Fort Sumter	Ebey's Landing
Sleeping Bear Dunes	Biscayne	Saugus Iron Works
Martin Luther King Jr.	Golden Gate	Obed
Noatak	Horseshoe Bend	Kennesaw Mountain
Indiana Dunes	Harry S. Truman	Grand Canyon

Agate Fossil Beds	Golden Spike	Acadia
Bering Land Bridge	Santa Fe	Chickasaw
Buffalo	Boston	San Antonio Missions
Yorktown	Assateague Island	Chamizal
Big Hole	Yosemite	Gettysburg
El Malpais	George Rogers Clark	Pecos
Jean Lafitte	Lewis & Clark	Appalachian
Wupatki	Delaware	Jamestown
Santa Monica Mountains	Colonial	Fort Laramie
Boston African-American	Big Bend	Shenandoah

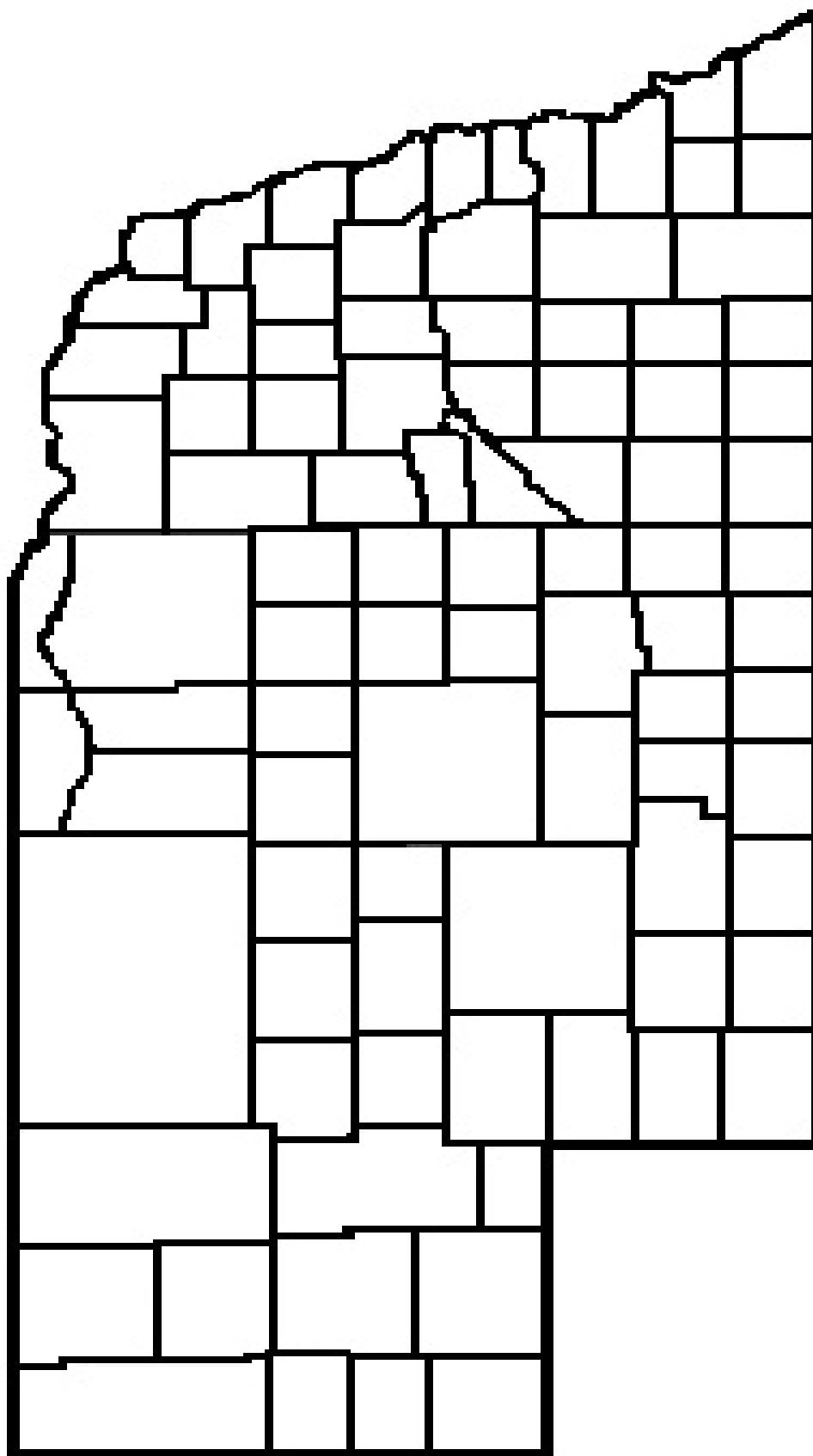
Unit 1, Activity 2

You Are Here

<p>Theme: Homestead National Monument of America was set aside as a National Park Service site because of its significance in interpreting an important historical era.</p> <p>Objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students will be able to state why Homestead National Monument of America was set aside as a special area.2. Students will be able to locate Homestead National Monument of America on the following maps: United States, Nebraska, and Gage County. <p>Materials Needed: Maps: United States, Nebraska, Gage County; Handouts of maps for students, Transparencies of maps, pencils and markers</p> <p>Subject: social studies, geography</p> <p>Skills: brainstorming, listing, mapping, shading, labeling</p>	<p>Methods: Students will be introduced to the concept of homesteading, Homestead National Monument of America, and historical narratives. Students will use maps of the United States, Nebraska, and Gage County to locate the monument. Students will locate and identify Homestead National Monument of America, related communities, counties, and the state of Nebraska by labeling and coloring (shading) maps of the United States, the state of Nebraska, and Gage County.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask students what they think of when they hear about <i>homesteading</i>. What are objects, ideas, etc. that they associate with homesteading?2. Explain that there is a National Park Service site that was set aside to commemorate homesteading - Homestead National Monument of America.3. Introduce students to the location of Homestead National Monument of America using transparencies of the United States, State of Nebraska, and Gage County. Why do they think the monument is located in this area?4. Point out the location of Homestead National Monument of America in the continental United States and Nebraska. Discuss urban communities that are located in southeast Nebraska and near Homestead National Monument of America. Discuss major roadways and rivers in southeast Nebraska.5. Distribute copies of the United States map, the Nebraska map, and the Gage County map to every student. Students will label their home city, Homestead National Monument of America, Lincoln, Omaha, and U.S. Highway 77 and Interstate 80.6. Explain that students will be learning about homesteading. They will have special narratives that reflect the lives of those who filed claims under this act. <p>An Exploring Experience: Have students talk to or interview their family members to see if any relatives of theirs homesteaded. Where did they homestead? Where did they move from? What are some stories of homesteading? Have students share experiences with the class.</p>
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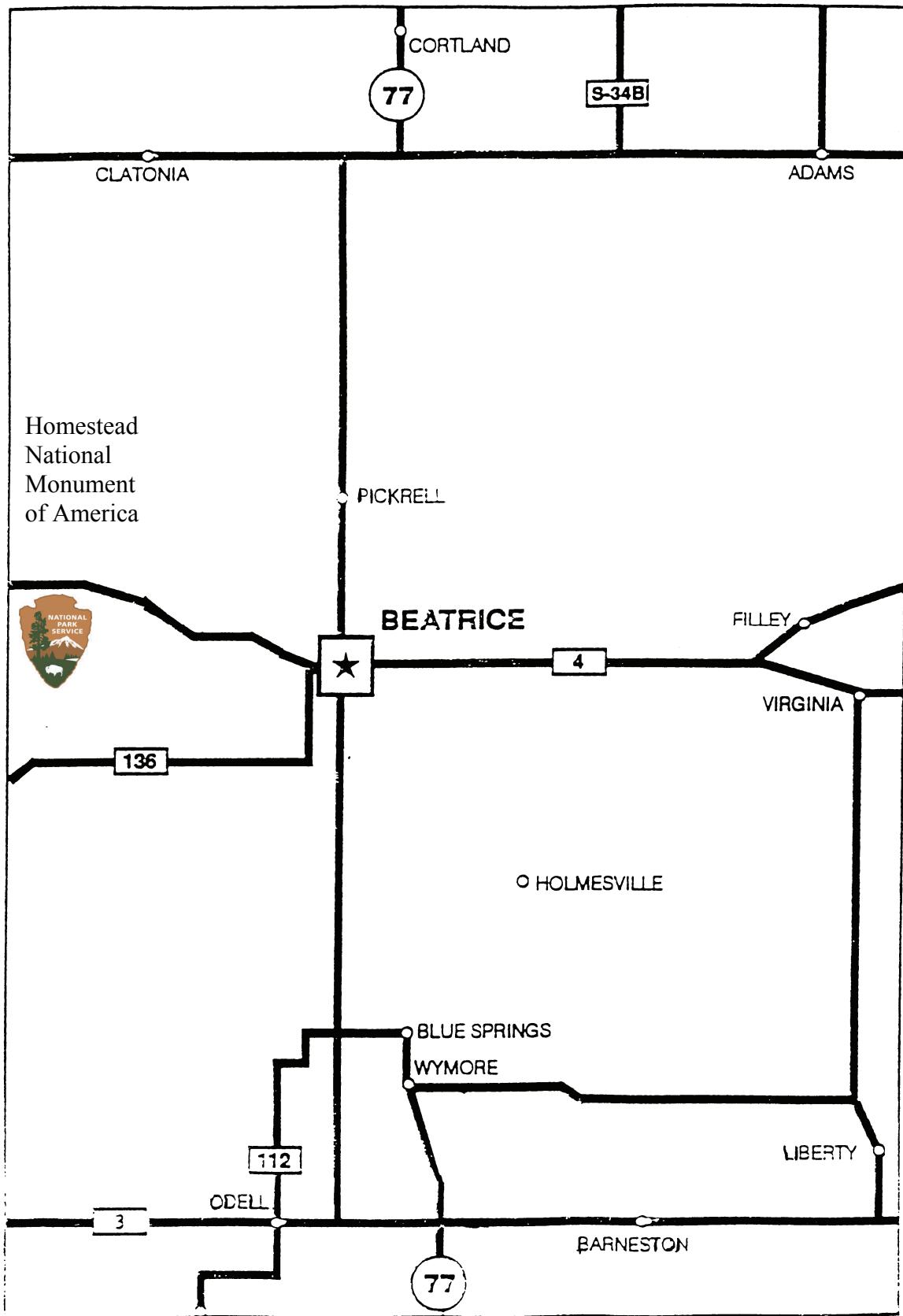


United States of America



Nebraska

Gage County, Nebraska



Unit 1, Activity 3

Homestead Search

Theme:
Many objects have importance to homesteading and are on display at Homestead National Monument of America.

Objectives:
1. Students will be able to locate 10 objects at the monument and describe the importance of 5 items.

Materials Needed: Activity Sheet: Homestead Search

Subject: social studies, science

Skills: locating, reading, labeling, analyzing

Methods: This is a "scavenger hunt" conducted at Homestead National Monument of America. Students will be given a list of items to locate at the monument. These significant items relate to homesteading life and assist students in understanding the purpose of the monument.

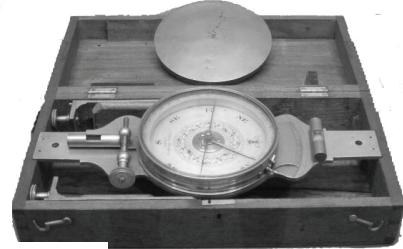
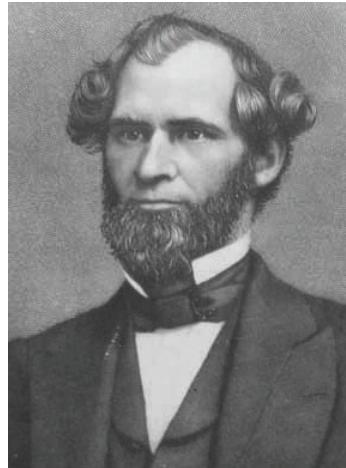
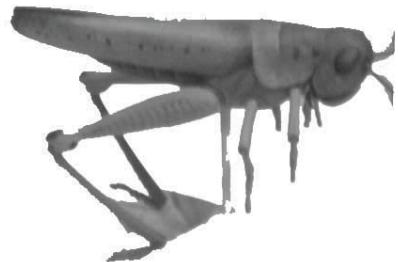
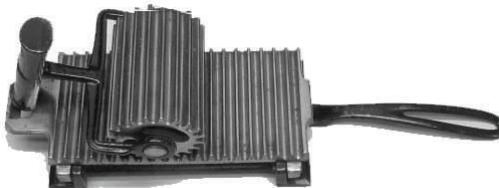
1. Give students the Activity Sheet: Homestead Search.
2. Instruct students that they must locate the items listed on the sheet and write down the use or importance of the object.
3. You may have them work in groups, pairs, or individually to complete the worksheet.
4. Have students meet together to discuss what they saw, and their views on the uses and importance of the items.

Adapt to classroom use: Use line drawings and pictures with brief descriptions of the items. Include other appropriate items in addition to those items on the list. Place the items throughout the room and have students search for the items.

An Exploring Experience: Have groups research the use of particular historic objects and present written reports to the class.

Homestead Search

Put an **X** on each object found and write the name of the object below the picture of it.



Homestead Search

Locate and describe the use or importance of these objects.

Clothes stomper

Grasshopper model plow

Cold roller mangle

Sickle

Mustache cup

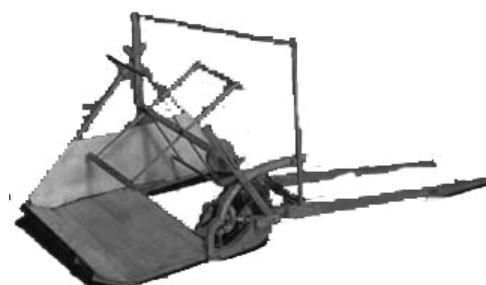
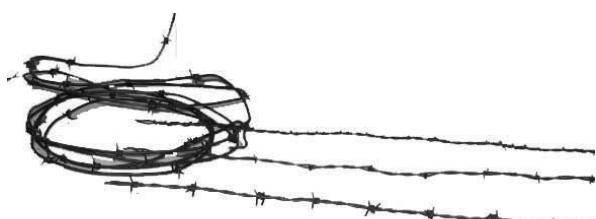
Auger

Sun bonnet

Husking peg

Find the answer:

What year was the McCormick Reaper invented?

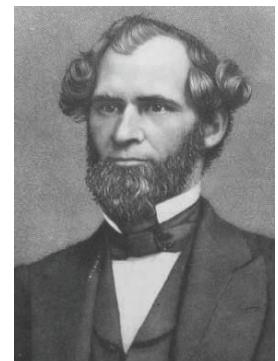


What year was barbed wire introduced?

How much of a section is equal to 160 acres?



What is the main ingredient of Boiled Indian Pudding?



Who wrote the legislative bill that became the Homestead Act?